



Doug Moore
Chief Communications Officer
(314) 565-5472

Federal Court Sides with St. Louis County on Stay-At-Home Order

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO (July 30, 2021) – A federal appeals court has sided with St. Louis County in a lawsuit alleging that a County stay-at-home order issued in 2020 had violated free exercise of religion, amongst other allegations.

Several County residents filed suit in April 2020 alleging a County order issued in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic limiting the size of gatherings at churches had violated plaintiffs' freedoms of religion, expression, association, and assembly. The Federal District Court dismissed that suit, ruling plaintiffs lacked standing to bring the case.

Plaintiffs appealed the dismissal.

On Friday, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit upheld the district court ruling. The federal court also ruled that, since the County had in May of this year eliminated all restrictions on religious gathering, "any controversy is now moot."

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